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URUBITINGA SCHISTACEA.

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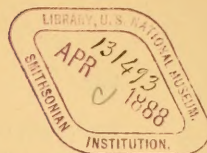
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XIX. *On some New or little-known Species of Accipitres, in the Collection of the Norwich Museum.* By PHILIP LUTLEY SCLATER, M.A., F.L.S., &c.

Read March 9, 1858.

AT the request of Mr. J. H. Gurney, I exhibit to the meeting some interesting birds belonging to the fine series of specimens of the order Accipitres, which that gentleman has collected for the Norwich Museum. Among them appear to be several new or little-known species, concerning which I beg to offer the following remarks.

1. URUBITINGA SCHISTACEA. (Pl. LVIII.)

Asturina schistacea, Sund. Ofv. af K. Vet. Ak. Förh. 1849, p. 132.

Falco ardesiacus, Licht. in Mus. Berol.

Morphnus schistaceus, Sclater, P. Z. S. 1857, p. 261.

♂ *adultus*. *Totus nigro-cinereus, cauda nigra, fascia media angusta margineque apicali albis: orbitis subnudis: rostri apice nigra, hujus basi cum pedibus flavis.*

Long. tota 16·0, alæ 11·0, caudæ 7·0, rostri a rictu 1·4, tarsi 3·3.

Sundevall has given an excellent description of this bird, which does not appear to have been recognized by any other writer except Prince Bonaparte. By the latter author it is alluded to in an article entitled "Revue générale de la classe des Oiseaux," in the 'Revue et Mag. de Zool.' for 1850, p. 474, and again in the 'Comptes Rendus' for 1855, under the specific name *ardesiaceus*, the synonym "*Falco ardesiacus*, Licht. in Mus. Berol." being said to refer to it.

Of the two examples of this species belonging to the Norwich Museum, one was procured by Mr. H. W. Bates¹ on the Rio Javarri, a branch of the Upper Amazon; and the other, I have no doubt, from the ticket with which it is labelled, is from the interior of Bolivia. So we may conclude that the interior wood-region of Peru and Bolivia is its natural *habitat*.

There are at least three birds of this group which are in their adult plumage slaty-black or blackish, with a white bar across the tail. The first of these and largest in size is the *Falco urubitinga* of the older authors. Lesson in 1839 proposed to convert the term *Urubitinga* into a generic name, and it was so adopted by Lafresnaye in 1842, before the creation of Cabanis' genus *Hypomorphnus* for the same type. See M. de Lafresnaye's remarks on this subject in the 'Revue Zoologique' for 1848, p. 240. With regard to the specific name to be employed for this bird, we cannot use Brisson's "*brasiliensis*," as is done in Strickland's 'Ornithological Synonyms,' because Brisson's²

¹ See Proc. Zool. Soc. 1857, p. 261.

² See British Association's Report on Zoological Nomenclature, rule 2, p. 5.

names are not to be employed in a binominal system of nomenclature. Nor is it proper to adopt Illiger's MS. term "*longipes*," as proposed in Prince Bonaparte's 'Conspectus,' while there are many other names for this bird already published. So the earliest specific name available seems to be Shaw's *zonurus* (*Falco zonurus*, Shaw's Zool. vii. p. 62), and this species should stand as *Urubitinga zonura*. It appears to have an extensive range, extending from Paraguay, all over Bolivia, Peru, Brazil, Guiana and New Granada into Southern Mexico, where specimens were obtained by M. Sallé (see Proc. Zool. Soc. 1857, p. 227).

The second allied species of *Urubitinga* is the "*Falco anthracinus*, Licht. in Mus. Berol.," under which name it is described by Nitzsch in a note to his 'Pterylographie' (p. 83). This is the same as Du Bus's *Morphnus mexicanus* (Bull. Ac. Brux. 1847). See M. de Lafresnaye's observations in the 'Revue Zoologique' for 1848 (p. 240), where he clearly points out the differences between this bird and the *Urubitinga zonura*. The *Urubitinga anthracina* inhabits the northern portion of South America, Guiana¹ and New Granada², Guatemala and Southern Mexico³, where MM. Botteri and Sallé both procured it, and M. DuBus's types were collected. The third species is *Urubitinga schistacea* as characterized above, which is distinguishable at once from the preceding by its inferior size and narrower tail-band. The following diagnoses are sufficient to point out the differences between these three species⁴:—

1. *U. zonura*. Major, caudæ dimidio basali et margine apicali albis.
2. *U. anthracina*. Media, caudæ fascia lata et margine apicali albis.
3. *U. schistacea*. Minor, caudæ fascia angusta et margine apicali albis.

Such are these birds in their adult plumage: in their immaturity they are quite different. I have not yet seen the young of *U. schistacea*, as I now think the specimen in one of Sallé's Mexican collections called *Morphnus schistaceus*, juv. (Proc. Zool. Soc. 1857, p. 227), does not really belong here; but the other two species in their immature state are both irregularly flammulated on the lower surface and back, and have numerous buffy-white cross-bars on the tail and under tail-coverts. Specimens of *U. zonura* in this state are in the British Museum, and we have a fine example of a similar bird now alive in our Gardens.

I have hitherto used for these birds the generic term *Morphnus*, following Mr. Gray and other writers; but on considering that the true type of *Morphnus* is the *Falco guianensis* of Daudin—a bird of different structure, and more nearly allied to *Thrasaëtus*, I think they stand better disconnected. But the *Falco unicinctus* of Temminck and *Falco meridionalis* of Latham—two allied species, for which Kaup's term *Spizigeranus*

¹ Schomburgk, Reisen in Britisch Guiana, iii. p. 740.

² MM. Verreaux have received examples from Santa Martha.

³ See Proc. Zool. Soc. 1857, pp. 211 & 227.

⁴ A fourth black *Urubitinga* from Cuba, allied to *U. anthracina*, has lately been described by Cabanis under the name *Hypomorphnus Gundlachii*. See Cab. Journ. f. Orn. 1854, Erinnerungs-heft, p. lxxx.

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may be employed subgenerically—ought, as M. de Lafresnaye¹ has observed, to come close to the true *Urubitingæ*; and *Buteogallus* with its two species (*æquinoctialis* and *nigricollis*) follows next. A bird more closely corresponding to the *Urubitingæ* in its changes of colouring is *Urubitornis solitaria*, of which M. Jules Verreaux has described the several stages of plumage in our ‘Proceedings²,’ but it is distinguishable by its shorter and much more robust tarsi.

2. *BUTEO ZONOCERCUS*, sp. nov. (Pl. LIX.)

Schistacescenti-niger unicolor, alis extus brunnescente tinctis: remigum pogoniis interioribus albo obsolete transfasciatis: cauda nigra; vitta inferiore lata, et alteris duabus superioribus angustioribus et imperfectis cum margine apicali albis: rostro nigro, cera aurantia, pedibus flavis.

Long. tota 17·0, alæ 14·7, caudæ 7·5, rostri a rictu 1·3, tarsi 2·9.

Hab. Guatemala.

In plumage this bird is very much like the typical *Urubitingæ*, being of a nearly uniform ashy-black, tinged with brown on the scapularies and secondaries, and with a broad white band across the tail. Above this are two other bands, much narrower and not quite complete, and the tail is likewise tipped with white. The colour of these bands is pure white on the under surface; on the upper surface it is cinereous on the outer webs of the lateral rectrices, and on both webs of the medial pair, but pure white on the inner webs of the lateral tail-feathers. The lowest band is about $1\frac{3}{4}$ inch in breadth, the second not half an inch, and the highest is quite narrow. There are distinct traces of white cross-bands on the inner webs of the wing-feathers. The wings are, however, much more elongated than in the *Urubitingæ*, the third primary (which is longest) extending 4 inches beyond the secondaries. The fourth and fifth primaries are only slightly shorter than the third, the first being nearly of the same length as the longest secondary. The general form seems to be that of the *Buteones* appertaining to the subgenus called *Tachytriorchis*; and the nearest ally of the present species among the specimens of the British Museum appears, as has been pointed out to me by Mr. G. R. Gray, to be his *Buteo albonotatus* (Cat. Accipitres [1848], p. 36). This latter bird does not appear to me to differ from Cabanis’ *Buteo abbreviatus*, described in Schomburgk’s ‘Reisen in British Guiana,’ vol. iii. p. 739, and I should be inclined to consider the two names as synonymous.

3. *SYRNIUM ALBITARSE*, sp. nov. (Pl. LX.)

Syrnium albotarse, G. R. Gray in Mus. Brit.

Supra brunnescenti-nigrum, plumis omnibus pallido rufo semel aut pluries late transfasciatis; pileo unicolore nigricante, plumis subtus pallide rufis: alis caudaque nigricantibus; remigum pogoniis exterioribus quinque sive sex maculis quadratis pallide

¹ Revue Zoologique, 1848, p. 240.

² See P. Z. S. 1856, p. 145.

rufis marginatis; rectricibus vittis quinque et altera terminali latiore supra pallide rufis, subtus magis albidis apparentibus transfasciatis: facie, loris, mento et plumis supra-ocularibus albis: subtus pure album, rufescente mixtum, plumarum terminationibus latis interdum etiam scapis saturate brunneis; tibiis et tarsorum parte superiore rufis, horum parte inferiore albis: rostri plumbei apice flavo, pedibus fuscis.

Long. tota 15·0, alæ 11·0, caudæ 6·5, tarsi 1·9.

The name of this Owl was inserted in the List of Specimens of Accipitres in the Collection of the British Museum published in 1848; but no description of it has yet appeared. The type in the British Museum is immature, and nearly agrees with one in my own collection. Mr. Gurney's specimen, from which my description is taken, appears to be nearly adult. All these three examples were received in collections from Bogota, and they are the only individuals of this species that I have yet met with. The face of this bird is white; the head above brownish-black outside, with the bases of the feathers bright rufous. The whole upper surface is brownish-black varied with this rufous colouring, every feather being crossed with a broad subterminal band of rufous, sometimes with a second, and these bands being occasionally incomplete in the middle across the shaft. The primaries and secondaries are marked externally with rather square-shaped rufous spots, four or five in number. The tail has five cross-bands besides the terminal one formed in the same way, which bands appear whitish on the lower surface. Below, the colouring is creamy-white tinged with pale rufous, the breast-feathers, particularly on the sides, having broad terminations of black-brown, the belly-feathers narrower terminations and also lateral margins of the same colour. The tarsi are creamy-white with a yellowish tinge in both my specimens, more nearly pure white in that in the British Museum; they are thickly feathered down to the fissure of the toes. The form is that of other South American *Syrnia*, the fourth and fifth wing-feathers being equal and longest, only slightly exceeding the third. The specimen which I take for the younger bird only differs in having the head varied like the back, and being generally more rufous.

The other American species of this genus of which I have seen specimens are:—

1. *Syrnium hylophilum* (Temm. Pl. Col. 373), from Brazil. Mus. Brit. et Acad. Philadelph.

2. *Syrnium rufipes* (King, Zool. Journ. iii. 426), from Tierra del Fuego. Mus. Brit. Perhaps the same as the Chilian species figured by Des Murs as *Ulula fasciata*, Icon. Orn. pl. 37.

3. *Syrnium virgatum*, Cass. (Journ. Ac. Phil. vol. ii.) (*S. squamulatum*, Bp.; *S. zonocercum*, G. R. Gray), from S. Mexico and Central America.

4. *Syrnium polygrammicum*, G. R. Gray in Mus. Brit. ex Brasil. An undescribed species very nearly allied to the last.



5. *Syrnium albigulare*, Cass. (Journ. Ac. Phil. vol. ii. pl. 4. p. 52).—*S. macabrum*, Bp. ; *S. albipunctatum*, G. R. Gray in Mus. Brit. From Bogota.

+ 4. *Scops usta*, sp. nov. (Pl. LXI.)

Supra saturate castaneo-brunnea, plumis omnibus nigro subtilissime vermiculatis: facie et gula pure castaneo-brunneis, hac pallidior: linea post regionem auricularem, cornuum capitis extantium marginibus latis et pileo supero nigris: alarum pennis pallide castaneo-brunneis nigro punctulatis, intus autem ochraceiscenti-albidis, quinque aut sex fasciis latis in pogonio externo, maculas quadratas efficientibus, nigris transvittatis; cauda ex eodem colore sed fasciis nigris pæne obsoletis: subtus clarius brunnea, lineis angustis longitudinalibus, scapas plumarum occupantibus, nigris parce notata: tectricibus alarum inferioribus sordide albis: tarsis pallide fulvis: rostro et pedibus flavis.

Long. tota 8·5, alæ 7·0, caudæ 4·0, tarsi 1·2.

Hab. Ega, on the Upper Amazon (H. W. Bates).

This species is founded on the *Scops* which I have mentioned as occurring in Mr. Bates' collection from the Upper Amazon, in the 'Proceedings of the Zoological Society' for 1857, p. 261. It is distinguishable from every other South American member of the genus, as far as I am acquainted with them, by its rich brown colouring above and below, and by the longitudinal lines below not being crossed as in *Scops choliba* and *S. atricapilla*. I am inclined to refer the *Scops* which was contained in M. Verreaux's collection from the Rio Napo to this species. It presents nearly the same appearance on its lower surface; but the colouring above is more like that of *Scops choliba*, and I think it is probably a young bird. The birds of this genus are difficult to distinguish, and I have been unable to identify the present example with any of ten species which have been already described as inhabiting different parts of America, as follows:—

1. *Scops asio* (Linn.), Cassin, Birds of Californ. p. 179.

Hab. Whole of N. America; chiefly Atlantic States. Mus. Brit.

2. *Scops macalli*, Cassin, Birds of Californ. p. 180.

Hab. Texas and N. Mexico.

3. *Scops flammeola*, Kp.—*Strix flammeola*, Licht. in Mus. Berol.

Hab. Southern Mexico.

4. *Scops choliba*, Vieill.—*Strix crucigera* et *undulata*, Spix.

Hab. Cayenne, Brit. Guiana, Brazil, Eastern Peru, Bolivia, and New Granada. Mus. Brit.

5. *Scops portoricensis*, Less.: Des Murs, Icon. Orn. pl. 26.

Hab. Puerto Rico and New Granada. Mus. Paris.

6. *Scops watsoni*, Cassin, Pr. Ac. Sc. Phil. iv. p. 123, et Journ. Ac. Phil. ii. pl. 12. fig. 1. p. 95.

Hab. Venezuela and Surinam.

7. *Scops atricapilla* (Temm.), Pl. Col. 145.

Hab. Brazil. Mus. Brit.

8. *Scops lophotes*, Less. Tr. d'Orn. i. p. 107 ; Puch. Rev. et Mag. de Zool. 1849, p. 22.

Hab. Cayenne.

9. *Scops grammicus*, Gosse, B. Jam. p. 19, Illustr. pl. 4.

Hab. Jamaica. The type of Kaup's proposed genus *Pseudoscops*: see Bp. in Compt. Rend. Oct. 22, 1855. Mus. Brit.

10. *Scops nudipes*.—*Ephialtes nudipes*, Cassin, List of Strigidæ, sp. 13.—*Bubo nudipes*, Vieill. Ois. de l'Am. Sept. pl. 22.



XX. *Description of a new Species of the Genus Buteo from Mexico.*

By PHILIP LUTLEY SCLATER, M.A., F.L.S., &c.

Read July 13, 1858.

MR. J. H. GURNEY has requested my attention to a specimen of a species of the genus *Buteo* belonging to the Norwich Museum, which I now exhibit. It was formerly in the collection of this Society, and was originally received along with other birds from the State of Tamaulipas, in Northern Mexico, by Mr. Gould. I have never seen any other bird quite resembling it—the nearest ally known to me being the *Buteo albonotatus* of G. R. Gray, from which, however, on comparison, it appears to be perfectly distinct. I agree with Mr. Gurney in considering it as probably undescribed; and in allusion to its nearly uniform sooty-black plumage, propose to characterize it as

BUTEO FULIGINOSUS, sp. nov. (Pl. LXII.)

Saturate fuliginoso-brunneus unicolor; capite, dorso medio et alarum primariis extus paulo nigricantioribus: primariorum et secundariorum vexillis internis subtus albis, sex aut septem vittis nigris transversim notatis; tectricibus alarum inferioribus nigro-brunneis: cauda supra fuliginoso-brunnea, vittis quinque aut sex nigris obsolete transfasciata et nigro late terminata; cauda subtus alba et vittis dilutioribus: rostro nigro, pedibus flavis.

Long. tota 15·5, alæ 12·0, caudæ 6·5, tarsi 2·6.

Hab. In Mexico Boreali.

XXI. *Description of a New Species of Owl of the Genus Ciccaba.*

By PHILIP LUTLEY SCLATER, M.A., F.L.S., &c.

Read April 12, 1859.

MR. J. H. GURNEY has invited my attention to the example of an Owl of the genus *Ciccaba*, which I now exhibit. It has already passed through my hands once, having been submitted to my examination by M. Verreaux, along with other birds from Southern Mexico, of which I gave some account in our 'Proceedings' for last year. As will be seen by referring to my remarks given on that occasion¹, I then somewhat unwillingly referred it to *Ciccaba huhula*. Mr. Gurney, however, having acquired the specimen for the Norwich Museum, agrees with M. Jules Verreaux (whose opinion to that effect I have already recorded) in insisting on its distinctness. Having lately had an opportunity of examining a second specimen of this bird, in the collection of the Jardin des Plantes at Paris, I am now quite prepared to coincide with their views, and to characterize this Mexican *Ciccaba* as an independent species, differing from, though closely allied to, the S. American *Ciccaba huhula*. It may be recognized at once by the more uniform colour above, there being hardly a trace of white transverse markings, except on the elongated feathers of the neck-collar, and by the ground-colour below being pure white, crossed by frequent narrow bands of black, each feather showing three or four of such cross-bands. I propose to call this bird

CICCABA NIGROLINEATA. (Pl. LXIII.)

Schistacescenti-nigra, colli postici plumis elongatis et albo ter quater transfasciatis: maculis in regione superciliari et auriculari quibusdam albis: subtus alba, lineis nigris crebro transfasciata: mento nigro: subalaribus albis, nigro variegatis: cauda nigra, albo quinque transfasciata: rostro et pedibus flavissimis: tibiis nigris, albo sparsis.

Long. tota 15·0, alæ 10·5, caudæ 6·78, rostri a rictu 1·35, tarsi 2·1.

Hab. In Mexico Meridionali.

Mus. Norfolciensi et Parisiensi.

¹ See P. Z. S. 1858, p. 96.



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